



Montgomery County RainScapes Rewards Rebate Conservation Landscaping



Requirements and Important Information

The steps to get a rebate for your RainScapes installation are listed below. The rebate check will be issued by the Department of Finance.

All decisions regarding eligibility of applications and processing of applications are final and are at the sole discretion of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Before you begin your project	
	When planning your project, ensure that it follows the design guidelines and criteria included within the application. This is important in order to be eligible for rebates.
	Make sure you have written approval from the RainScapes Rewards Planner before you begin installation or construction. Projects that are partially or completely finished before approval will not qualify for rebates. Allow three weeks for processing and wait to receive application approval from the Department of Environmental Protection. Contact us at RainScapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov or call 311 if you have not received a response three weeks after you submitted an application.
	You will be contacted by the Department of Environmental Protection to schedule the mandatory, preliminary site inspection if your application is approved
	Projects must be installed within six months of the preliminary inspection date.
	Compile all necessary documentation outlined in the application. Submit the application, photos, and required documentation. The applicant is responsible for obtaining any necessary permits.
	Provide a diagram or picture which shows the location of the proposed conservation landscape project. Take a “before” photo of the proposed project area (up to six photos may be submitted. Please compress photos to reduce file size). If you cannot take pictures at this time, you may skip the upload and email the photos to RainScapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov . Please indicate your Application ID in the email.
	For turf conversions and permeable paver retrofit projects, you must contact MISS UTILITY and have the project area marked prior to site inspection.
	If you live in an HOA community, provide a letter or other documentation showing HOA approval of project.
	List of plants along with a detailed Planting Plan scale of 1/8” = 1’ or 1/4” = 1’ or 1”



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	=10') (Submit for review and approval before construction; it can be submitted before or after the site inspection/site approval)
Upon completion of your project	
	Contact the Department of Environmental Protection at RainScapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov to schedule a mandatory final inspection. Inspections will generally be scheduled within 10 business days. At the final inspection, correct installation of the project will be verified, and the project area will be photographed.
	Please remember to submit, prior to final inspection, itemized receipts, contractor bills and/or invoices for all project costs. Invoices/billing documentation must be submitted for the entire rebate amount requested. Photocopies are acceptable. Email them to RainScapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov . Please indicate your Application ID in the email. Without this information, the rebates cannot be processed.
	If all requirements are met, the rebate will be approved, and a check will be issued by the County Department of Finance within three to six weeks.



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Design Criteria and Guidelines for Project Eligibility

rev. 1/10, 7/10

*** These guidelines and criteria will be periodically updated to ensure currency with the latest technical information and best practices – please verify that you have the latest version! ***

Conservation Landscaping

(A detailed conservation landscaping specification is being developed; these are basic guidelines)

- All projects must be on your property, outside of the Road Right of Way
- For residential properties, established turf area to be converted must be at least 250 sq. ft.
- For institutional properties, established turf area to be converted must be at least 350 sq.ft.
- No plastic sheeting (impermeable weed barrier) will be permitted to be permanently installed in a conservation landscape area.
- Areas which have had the turf removed should be replanted promptly. This is especially important on slopes, to prevent soil erosion.
- A planting plan is required. At least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the plants must be native plants to this ecoregion or cultivars (see sources under Rain Gardens).
- Decompaction to a depth of 9-12" is expected and will be checked at final inspection. This entails removing turf, loosening the area to the depth of one shovel, adding a 2" layer of compost and working it into the new planting bed prior to planting.
- A mulch layer is required to inhibit weed growth, prevent soil loss, and retain soil moisture. A depth of 3" is recommended; minimum mulch depth is 2".
- Planting plan must include, at a minimum, information on plant species, container size, number of plants and planting densities, plant material source, soil amendments to be used, and maintenance plan.
- For a good resources, visit:
 - RainScapes Resources Plant Lists:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dectmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/water/rairesources.asp>
 - <http://www.envirolandscaping.org/howto.htm>,
 - Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council
<http://www.chesapeakelandscape.org/>
<http://www.chesapeakelandscape.org/Guid1207%20.pdf>
 - ASLA: Sustainable Sites Initiative: <http://www.sustainablesites.org/>
 - Maryland DNR:
http://www.dnr.state.md.us/bay/cbnerr/download/BayScaping_WebLinks.pdf
 - AIA: http://www.aiacbcgreen.org/cbf_resource_list.php
 - Chesapeake Bay Foundation:
http://www.cbf.org/Page.aspx?pid=643&s_src=google&s_subsrc=Bay&gclid=CI_gj4mRp58CFRtN5QodaliT0Q
 - Native Plants: http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/nativeplants.shtml